

MEETING MINUTES
DISABLED ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
SCHMEECKLE RESERVE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2005

Members in attendance: Chairman Werner Burkat, Vice-Chairman John Kocourek, John Mitchell, Steve Johnson, Tom Zimmer, Joe Greene and Dave Lato.

Members absent: Jim Rutledge, Dave Stinson and alternate Dale Petkovsek.

DNR staff in attendance: Dotti Krieger, Julie Amakobe, Bill Schwengel and Al Czeshinski.

Chairman Burkat called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m.

The meeting began by reviewing/approving the agenda. Werner wanted to add a couple of items to discuss, that being a draft letter he had written regarding the hunting age issue and also the e-mail he received from Dale Petkovsek. Tom urged the members to not rush to be out by 3 p.m. given a nice day and weather, we should stay and get through the agenda.

John Kocourek made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Steve Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was the review and approval of the DAC meeting minutes from July 15, 2005. There was a question regarding what the meaning of the fourth step was for the 4-step process mentioned on page 2. Dotti clarified what this meant.

The minutes were approved as written.

Agenda item - Survey results from reviewing State Parks regarding disabled turkey hunting. Joe started off the discussion. He had gone to Mirror Lake State Park (SP) and Rocky Arbor SP. At Mirror Lake, Joe was with the Park Manager, Paul Zajackowski. There was one blind at the park, but it was not suitable for turkey hunting because of the location it was in. It would be great for waterfowl. Paul will be talking/working with the city to have the blind relocated. Where the blind was located was not easily accessible, and the parking area that serves the blind was not being maintained. And the blind was available to 1 hunter per day, 5 days a week, for only the 3-week spring turkey hunt.

Joe made a motion that the current blind be relocated to a location that could be used for turkey hunting. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor. We are awaiting Joe's report to follow up on.

At Rocky Arbor SP, this is a seasonal park. The park has an existing blind, it is in a great location for turkey hunting, and can be reserved by a hunter per week only during the 3-week spring turkey hunt. The parking lot and the trail that serves the blind are in good condition.

Dotti at this time mentioned that turkey hunting is a "huge" issue at the central office. The Bureau of Wildlife Management (WM) wants to go ahead with rule changes to increase the hunting opportunities and zones as well as the number of blinds that are available for persons with disabilities. Interstate SP, Newport SP and Willow River SP are new parks that would allow turkey hunting, including disabled turkey hunting, and WM will continue to investigate further expanded hunting, and we hope to have more blinds available in the future.

Steve and Anthonette will be surveying Wyalusing soon and Dotti will be surveying Interstate and Willow River hopefully yet this fall. Dotti mentioned that Newport SP has an accessible trail and would like a blind. Werner indicated that he will visit Newport SP.

All the remaining surveys should be completed as soon as possible.

The turkey blinds are supposed to be signed for the disabled hunters' use. The Park Manager should have a schedule for their use, and if a disabled hunter is not using them, a non-disabled hunter can use them.

Dotti also encouraged at this time that the DAC members should go to Spring Hearings next year to urge that more hunting and recreational facilities (such as blinds) be made available for persons with disabilities at the State Parks/Forests and Wildlife Areas. The DAC would also be able to support the inclusion of Class B participation in special hunt at these hearings. The Spring Hearings in 2006 will be on April 10th. The DAC could also send a letter to each County Representative on the Conservation Congress, and to central office staff Al Phalen and AnnMarie Kutske, Conservation Congress liaisons, to make their views known so this is brought up at each County hearing.

Bill mentioned that electronic scanning/voting for Spring Hearing questions is available in DNR's West Central and Northeast Regions.

Joe also had a positive article that was passed around regarding the accessible cabin at Mirror Lake SP.

Agenda item – Long-term Class B's re: special hunts. Dotti led the discussion. The intent is to include all long-term (that is for a period of 1 year or greater) Class B's in all special hunts, including spring turkey hunts, that the department has. Some had thought that the DAC only wanted long-term Class B's, shoot or hunt from a stationary vehicle, included only for the special gun deer hunt.

A sidebar to this item is that there are some problems regarding Class B's. When the applications are brought in for a permit to be issued, on the application physicians/chiropractors are not checking the method box (es) or indicating the length of time that the Class B permit should be issued for. Participants at the meeting didn't know what and who were making these decisions when these items are not checked. DNR staff should not guess at what should be filled in, but should call the physician/chiropractor for clarification.

For the 2005 Spring Hearings, question 37, was re: "Allowing "long term" Class B disabled permit holders to participate in disabled hunts (2006). The wording of the narrative to the question only related to the special gun deer hunts. Nothing was mentioned about the special turkey hunts for disabled hunters or the disabled turkey hunts on private lands. And this would only apply to long-term Class B permits that had the method checked for "Shoot or hunt from a stationary vehicle", not for permits that had "Hunt with a crossbow" or "Troll with an electric motor" checked. But the question that was voted on was "Do you support allowing holders of a Class B disabled permit valid for more than one year to participate in disabled hunts? The vote supported this question 6,625 to 1,777. Bill Schwengel said to his knowledge this was only a change to the special gun deer hunts, and it would have to go back to the 2006 Spring Hearings and the Legislature to add long-term Class B's to the special turkey hunts under nr 10.40(4) and (5). The DAC could ask, by letter, to the Natural Resources Board that they do an administrative change without public input to include turkey hunting, since that was the intent of this issue. This would be an editorial change. If it were a full proposed rule change, a green sheet would need to be prepared and sent to Tom Van Haren, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and Kurt Thiede (WM).

Tom had a concern about a method to prioritize the subscribers if a hunt gets over-subscribed. Julie asked the question if we included persons with a Crossbow permit, and Bill said that crossbows can not be used for the gun/deer special hunt.

Werner suggested that a motion be made that the DAC would do a letter supporting question #37 from the 2005 Spring Hearings.

Joe Green made a motion that the DAC write a letter to support question #37 from the 2005 Spring Hearings and to include that this also apply to the spring turkey hunts as well. Dave seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Bill also mentioned that there is a Service Center committee working on a handbook for disabled permits. And they are also reviewing the disabled permit application forms. They are talking about making all expired dates either to be the same for each permit, or the expired date would be the date specified by the physician or chiropractor, or any other changes that come up. The consensus from the meeting, for length of time for a CLASS B permit application should be issued for, would have these options:

- To _____ (a specified date)
- 1 year or more
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years.

Tom again brought up the issue of prioritizing the subscribers for special hunts. It was decided not to include anything regarding prioritizing subscribers at this time. It is noted in the minutes of the July 15, 2005 meeting how we would prioritize, so there is a record of it.

Bill clarified that both Wisconsin residents and non-residents can apply for disabled hunting permits. For Wisconsin residents, 65 years and older, can use a crossbow without getting a permit. He also clarified that the criteria used for defining/issuing a trolling permit is the same criteria used to secure a crossbow permit.

Agenda item – Action Requests review. Julie led the discussion and she handed out a list of "OUTSTANDING ACTION REQUEST FORMS". The meeting participants went over the first 12 items deciding if an item could be deleted, wasn't still completed meaning it needed further action, or was completed but needed to be updated.

1. Tabled
2. Jim Rutledge will be asked the status of this at the December meeting
3. Important language re: defining class and mobility devices
4. Old and changes have been made re: access to fishing by disabled groups
5. Ice Age Trail builders have been urged to not construct barriers by articles in "Newsletter" by Dotti, and addressing it in the trail builders skills sessions.
6. Julie will send out a new updated Regional fish experts contact list
7. Class B's in special hunts is ongoing
8. Deleted as it has been dealt with a permit for motorized use by A, B, C permit holders
9. The word "traditional" needs definition-Bill will pursue
10. WM will be expanding turkey hunting opportunities, and ATV use is clarified in the 2500-80 permit process
11. Julie will distribute a hunter safety list.
12. Turkey hunting locations and conditions ongoing.

Because of time, we will continue with this agenda item at the next meeting.

Agenda item - Legislative/Rule Update. Bill didn't have time to review what is pending, so he will do a review and send it to Werner. We will discuss this at the December meeting. But Bill did mention that the proposed legislation that would allow all hunters to use a crossbow was coming up again.

John Mitchell brought up an issue that he thought was legislative, which is that a Class A or Class C permit holder can shoot a buck first (they do not have to earn a buck) but this is with a gun only. A Class A or Class C permit holder can not first shoot a buck with a crossbow. After a discussion of this issue, and with Bill finding the legislation that would need to be changed to make it possible for John and others like him to be able to shoot a buck with a crossbow, and realizing the process of what it would take to get a legislative change, John made the following motion.

The motion to amend ss. 29.193(2)(cr)(1) so that Class A or Class C permit holders can take a deer of either sex by firearm or archery. Steve seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Werner is to write a letter to the Bureau Director of WM and LE, Paul Heinen, DNR Policy Initiative Advisor, and Laurie Ostendorf, Land Division Administrator for the above motion.

Dotti mentioned that in the "Open the Outdoors" (OTO) website that the permit for motorized vehicle for disabled hunting doesn't work and that other updates to OTO are currently under way.

Agenda item - Goals for the Council-2005. Dotti had a hand out and led the discussion. She went over each of the 8 goals for the DAC and gave an update for each one.

1. Cabins - updated the DAC on the Kohler-Andrae SP cabin.
2. Administrative code changes - Bill said that there was none at this time.
3. Turkey surveys - most are done; we are awaiting reports from Anthonette Gilpatrick, Steve and Jim Rutledge.
4. Grant language should highlight accessibility - letter to be written to the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance.
5. DAC chair involved with federal audits - Dotti will notify Werner when the audits are scheduled.
6. Increase advocacy and education - this is ongoing.
7. Promote published materials on accessibility - Dotti indicated that the Bureau of Parks and Recreation would partially fund the updating of the cabin brochure. Al, Dotti and Julie will update this brochure. Dotti will be working on several publications and articles for Parks's newspapers over the winter for spring release.
8. Attend Conservation Congress meetings - DAC members encouraged to attend spring hearings - see minutes.

Agenda item - Member's updates/Other issues. Werner started this item. He read the e-mail from Dale Petkovsek. Dale was appointed as an Alternate to the Council at the first 2005 meeting and has not been able to attend any meetings since his appointment. The intent for an alternate was to have him/her attend at least 50% of the meetings. The group suggested that for the December meeting we try to have a conference call set up so Dale could participate if he can not attend the meeting. In addition, Dotti advised us that she would not be able to make the next meeting unless she could be connected on the conference call as well. This led into the discussion of the next meeting. We had set the date of December 16th but had not decided on any location. A decision was made to have the meeting at Options for Independent Living, Inc. in Green Bay. That is where Werner is located and he has the equipment for a conference call. Werner will provide us with the telephone number for the call, a map of how to get to the location of the meeting, and will also make lunch arrangements.

The first two meeting dates for 2006 were established, but location is to be determined. The dates are April 7 and July 14.

Werner read his draft letter re lowering the age of hunters to 10. All agreed it was well written. Werner will finalize and send to the DNR Secretary and the Chair of the Conservation Congress.

Al mentioned the reimbursement rates for mileage changed as of August 1st. The mileage reimbursement rate changed from \$.325 to \$.385 per mile for business use of a personal vehicle. Also, the rate for use of a specially equipped vehicle was increased from \$.50 to \$.56 per mile when a state vehicle is not available.

Tom did not have any updates at this time but did comment on the productivity of the council.

Dotti mentioned that there would be a ribbon cutting at Harrington Beach SP for a new bridge/trail project on September 24th.

Bill mentioned the following items. He had available if someone wanted a copy of the Learn To Hunt Program brochure - it's the department's brochure for novice hunters (get the youth involved); the DNR's Bureau of Law Enforcement 2004 Annual Report, the 2005 Deer Hunting Regulations and the Warden Association calendar.

While we were discussing items prior to this agenda item, Bill also said he found that either a Class A or Class B permittee can hunt and transport a loaded uncased firearm on a "scooter". While discussing scooters, Dotti said that if you open a trail to scooters, it must be open to bicycles.

Dave updated the DAC on the Fishing Has No Boundaries (FHNB) event in his area. Forty-three people participated in the event mostly on pontoons. He also mentioned that Fond du Lac has a new FHNB chapter, and that FHNB now has 21 events in 17 states, and Wisconsin has 8 of those events.

Fairs and the Farm Progress Days are good places to get the word out about what the DAC is and what it does.

Dale Petkovsek has thousands of acres available for a special hunt.

Mr. Larry Drake would also be interested in being an Alternate to the DAC.

The afarcry.org website lists special hunt events.

Steve Johnson mentioned that NASA (North American Squirrel Association) has several projects going and he gave the status of pier projects at Lake Onalaska, Lake Neshonoc, a site in Monroe County, and Perch Lake in Sparta. There are 25 registrants for a NASA sponsored disabled deer hunt being held Oct. 1-9. There will be a waterfowl hunt on October 15-16 in Trempealeau County. There was a youth trout fishing event held at a private pond which was also catch and release. There are also 16 permanent accessible blinds available for hunting in Trempealeau County. Check the nasasquirrel.org website for information.

Since it was after 3 p.m., John K made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dave seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

After the meeting, Dotti talked with Steve regarding Lake Onalaska and the availability of federal Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) funds. A grant proposal should be written on this project to apply for SFR funding.